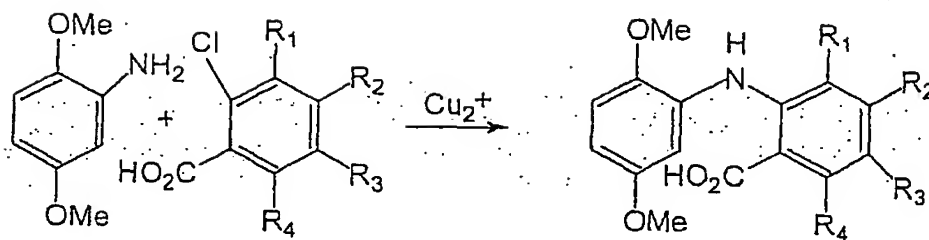


ABSTRACT

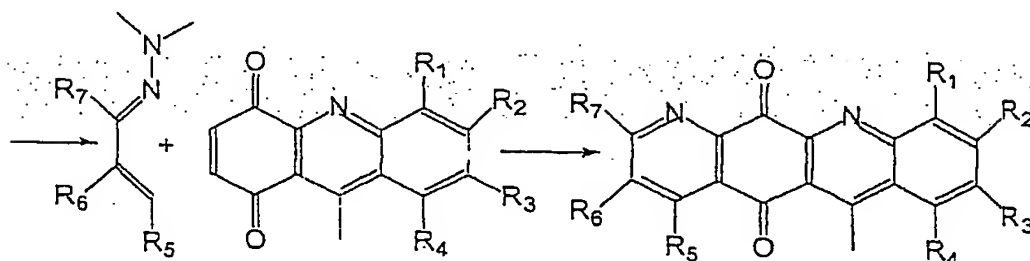
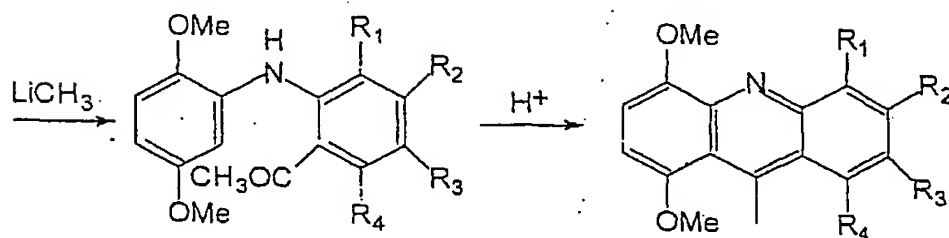
AR The invention concerns a pharmaceutical composition comprising an efficient amount of a compound selected among the compounds of formulae (I) and (Ia). The compounds have interesting cytotoxic properties leading to a therapeutic use as antitumoral medicines.

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Scheme II

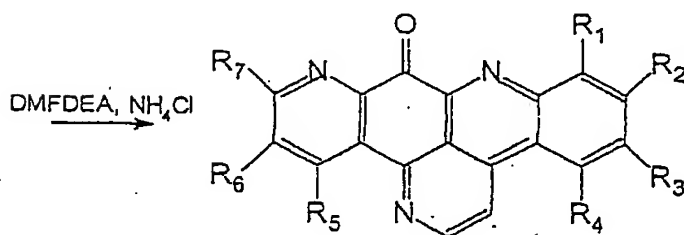


Formula IIIa



Formula IIIa

Formula IVa



Formula Ia

Certain compounds may be prepared directly from the ascididemin isomer known as 9-*H*-quino[4,3,2-de][1,7]phenanthrolin-9-one, or from a compound of formula Ia used as a synthetic intermediate.

AMENDED SHEET